

# LOST LAKE RCD – Lake Management



## LAKE DREDGING UPDATE

This past April, the RCD Board issued a bid specification for the construction of a sediment dewatering facility to be built on the 22 acres of property owned by the RCD, located immediately west of the Lost Lake Church of the Nazarene on Flagg and Lowden Roads. Four bids were received by the due date of May 13<sup>th</sup>. Currently, each bid response is being reviewed and the results will be announced

soon. This dewatering facility will become a permanent silt basin for the lake dredging that will occur this year as well as for depositing dredged material in the years to come.

Once the dewatering facility is nearly completed, the RCD will then issue bids for a contractor to perform the actual dredging on a major portion of Lost Lake. It is anticipated that the dredging process will be completed by years' end.

Also, following up on the information presented in last month's newsletter, the board retained the services of Olson Ecological Solutions, Inc. to explore opportunities to minimize the amount of silt entering

our lake from Clear Creek on the south end. The results of the study indicated that the silt that has accumulated is primarily the result of upstream conditions. Further study by others, to identify mitigation procedures, will continue. The RCD board will also consider, at a future date, methods to prevent erosion of the banks along the portion of Clear Creek owned by the RCD.

The board remains committed to serving the best interests of the community. We always look forward to any input. Please continue to visit our website or attend our meetings for project updates.

- Andy Warcaba, VP, RCD

## **Home and Yard Practices to Help Protect the lake**

*Credit: EPA LakeNotes*

### **Simple Tips for a Cleaner Lost Lake:**

- Use lawn and garden chemicals carefully and sparingly. Utilize manual, mechanical, and biological pest control methods first before chemical pesticides.
- Many Illinois soils already contain sufficient quantities of phosphorus to support healthy lawns. You should test your soil before applying fertilizers as testing your soil will save you money and prevent excess phosphorus from being applied. If no phosphorus is needed, purchase only low or no-phosphorus fertilizer blends.



*"You should test your soil before applying fertilizers."*

- Choose appropriate types of turf grass and groundcovers for your site's soil, sunlight, & water conditions.
- Keep your mowing height high. Set your mower blade at 3" to provide a "taller" lawn that holds water better,

requires less irrigation, and helps shade out weeds.

- Mow often enough to leave grass clippings on the lawn, and use a mulching mower if possible.
- On waterfront property, grow a "buffer strip" of dense, native vegetation along the shoreline to filter pollutants, stabilize the shore edge, and provide important wildlife habitat. (Don't mow all the way to the water's edge).



- Seed bare soil and cover it with mulch as soon as possible to minimize erosion.
- Never burn yard waste along the lakeshore. The ashes are quite high in nutrients and are easily washed into the lake.
- Use yard waste on-site as mulch or compost, or dispose of it properly off-site. Don't dump yard wastes along a lake or tributary stream.
- Keep fallen leaves out of the ditch or street gutter.
- Clean up pet wastes to prevent nutrients and bacteria from washing into the lake.

- Direct roof downspouts away from driveways and foundations and toward your lawn or planting beds where the water can soak into the soil.
- Use a splash block directly below your downspouts to help prevent soil erosion. If erosion still occurs, attach some flexible, perforated plastic tubing to the downspout to diffuse the water flow.
- When you can, walk or bike to your destination.
- Limit your overall use of toxic or hazardous products. Keep them away from drainage ditches, storm sewers, streams, and lakes.
- Check for drips under your car and repair leaks immediately to keep oils off pavement.
- Properly dispose of or recycle used motor oil and other automotive products.
- Wash cars with a no-phosphate detergent on the lawn so soapy water can't quickly drain toward the storm sewer and into your lake.
- When it's time to drain your pool, let the water sit a few days without chlorine before draining.
- If you have a septic system, inspect it annually and have it pumped out regularly at a minimum every two to three years. Conserve water, and use water-saving plumbing fixtures to maximize the septic system's efficiency.

- Rebecca Miller